

THE Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

WALTER G. SMITH

EDITOR

TUESDAY : : : : : JULY 16

FOR A RATIONAL FOURTH.

The movement against the explosive, ear-splitting, nerve-racking, noisy, firecracker celebration of the Fourth of July, is beginning to make headway. Not that the number of deaths and injuries from this Chinese method of demonstrating patriotism and pin-headedness has as yet been greatly reduced, but public attention, in places, has been fixed on the subject, and that in itself is the beginning of the end of an evil or abuse in a free country.

Two distinct lines of advance on the subject are discernible. One is that there is a better sentiment almost everywhere in support of efforts on the part of municipal authorities to limit the use of firecrackers and other explosives. In the good old days when no one had yet raised the question of the rationality of this method of celebrating the greatest day in the year, any effort on the part of police or other authorities to prevent such use of firecrackers as obviously and imminently endangered life or limb or the peace of mind of the aged or the young, was considered an infringement of the American's greatest right and privilege. But there has been a growing tendency, for a number of years, to recognize that Americans have some other rights on the Fourth of July than to indiscriminately explode firecrackers, and public opinion is more and more disposed to sustain efforts to limit the firecracker right and extend other rights.

The other line of advance on the subject is shown in the fact that a municipality here and there has got to the point of actually prohibiting the use of firecrackers and other explosives. San Francisco did it this year, though that may have been due more to the fact that a burned city dreads the firecracker than to a real advance of public opinion on the relative appropriateness of an explosive or a rational celebration. But in any event it demonstrates that the public mind is open to considerations that will eliminate the firecracker. It is a demonstration that the Fourth of July as an institution can exist without an explosive. And whatever the motive the result is a telling argument.

As a result of the elimination in San Francisco, there were no fires. There were no fatalities. There were no accidents. Not a single child in the whole of San Francisco will be able to remember the Fourth of July, 1907, because it was the day he was maimed for life, or the day his little brother or sister was fatally injured.

The Chicago Tribune, which has most persistently made the fight on the dangerous and rackety celebration, has collected statistics of thirty-seven killed and 2,153 injured throughout the United States as a result of the day's celebration on the Fourth of July this year. This, of course, does not take account of the cases of lockjaw which will develop as a result of Fourth of July injuries. But it is a formidable indictment of our traditional method of celebration, as it is.

Of course, it is not difficult to understand how such method of celebration became established. The Fourth of July is a battle-born holiday. It originated among a pioneer people accustomed to the use of arms, delighting in the crack and noise of gunpowder explosion for what it symbolized in their own experiences and in their traditions. The transformation from the shooting of cannon and rifles and the firing of anvils—which was the customary salute to the day everywhere in earlier years, and in rural regions until within comparatively recent times—the transformation from this to firecrackers and paper-made bombs was easy. But even allowing a good deal for the sentiment that surrounds and hallows these customs, the transformation has gone so far now that the symbolism is lost. What relation is there between the loud explosion of a Japanese-made firecracker or giant bomb, and the suggestion of liberty's battlefield? Not any.

It is time that a custom which has lost all relation to the sentiments that gave rise to it should pass away, and there are many and hopeful signs that it is passing away.

Vice President Fairbanks has suddenly become a formidable candidate for the Presidency. Let Taft, and Root, and Beveridge, and a few others beware. He has become a real hero! He saved a young woman from drowning! Those long legs of his which the cartoonists have used so greatly to his disadvantage, he has used greatly to the advantage of a young woman who with others was in a boat which capsized on a lake in Yellowstone Park, near the hotel, where the Vice President was stopping. Four of the party seemed able to rescue themselves, but the fifth was not, and would have drowned had not the Vice President jumped into the lake and waded to where the young lady was sinking for the third time. What statesmanship or personal popularity can overcome the lead this exploit must give the Vice President?

Congressman Higgins has nothing to take back of his Haleiwa speech—which was much more severe in its criticism than was reported—and must be credited with the courage of his convictions. It seems that the acerbity of the speech was due, in some degree, to the fact that Mr. Higgins was called upon against his will and on an occasion where, as he had been led to understand, there would be no speaking. In a sense his remarks were a relief, for stereotyped laudation palls after awhile and suggests that candor has given way to courtesy. Intelligent communities like intelligent men want to see themselves as others really see them.

The Postoffice loses money on steamer day, by not having several clerks to make out money orders, instead of depending upon one. When outgoing and incoming steamers meet, as yesterday, the Japanese business becomes so large that white people find they can't afford to spend the time required to be waited on and so buy money orders from the banks and express companies instead. Yesterday two Japanese in line at the Postoffice represented so many others who wanted money-orders as to consume all the time some waiting white customers had. A special clerk for Japanese business at such times, would expedite matters.

Schmitz objected so strongly to being lectured by the court that it will be interesting to know what he will say when he hears from the turnkey.

It is announced that "Teranuchi declares that there are no Japanese spies in America." Presumably, the Japanese are keeping all their spies at home.

WHEN SCHMITZ WAS SENTENCED

(Continued from Page Three.)

duty as a Judge, and with all respect to the Court, I say, now pronounce sentence, and not put this humiliation upon me in order that these newspapers tomorrow morning may flaunt this all over through the entire country."

The tone of the man expressed torture, but he killed the sympathy which might have arisen by his touch of injured vanity.

"It is not unusual," said Dunne, speaking without reference to his notes, "for a court to be brought in contact with acts of brazen effrontery such as yours at the present moment is. In such cases it is, however, the duty of the court to view such acts with patience and toleration, not to say with pity."

Then reading from his manuscript, the Court continued:

"Your career of hypocrisy, duplicity and dishonesty has been exposed and you stand before those who believed in you, naked, shamed and disgraced." "I deny that," shouted Schmitz, recovering his swagger. "I deny that the people of San Francisco know how I was railroaded through."

Judge Dunne paid no attention to the outburst and concluded briefly: "It is in the knowledge of these things rather than in any mere term of imprisonment in a State penitentiary that

the full measure of your punishment will be found. It is the judgment of this Court that you be confined in San Quentin prison for a term of five years."

Then applause broke out. It did not start in one quarter, but was general, spontaneous, and among the crowd there was no one to champion the fortunes of the sentenced Schmitz.

Fairall was on his feet menacing the Court, with his hand. "You could stop that," he shouted over the uproar.

"Throw them out," yelled Sheriff O'Neil to his bailiffs, and Judge Dunne ordered the courtroom cleared.

IS COMMITTEE IGNORED OR NOT?

(Continued from Page One.)

and the Republican members of the board.

Booth favored the plan of an early meeting with the Supervisors. He wanted to meet them as soon as possible and find out why the great change. He could remember, he said, when Charles Hustace was a member of the County Committee and was very loud-mouthed about the power of the County Committee. He remembered when this same Charles Hustace used to pound the table and demand if the County Committee was to be ignored by any Board of Supervisors?

He remembered also when Sam Dwight was a member of the same County Committee and thought that it

was the whole cheese. He, Booth, wanted to find out why election brought about a change of mind and a marble heart.

The reminiscences being concluded, the meeting adjourned for a week.

WATCHING MEXICAN LINE FOR JAPANESE

MEXICO CITY, July 1.—One thousand Japanese who arrived at the port of Salina Cruz direct from Japan about two weeks ago will probably be turned back by the health authorities. Many of them are in a diseased condition. They are being held in quarantine with a view of determining whether there is a prospect of their condition improving soon. They are all under contract to work in the coal mines of the Mexican Coal and Coke Company at Los Esperanzas, near the Rio Grande border.

WASHINGTON, July 1.—For many months the bureau of immigration has had inspectors in Mexico watching the trend of Japanese immigration. According to reports received at the Department of Commerce and Labor it is perfectly evident that hundreds of Japanese laborers who arrive in Mexico have no intention of remaining in that country, but regard it merely as a stopping place en route to the United States. Thousands of Japanese laborers are known to be in Mexico merely awaiting an opportunity to enter the United States. The border is about 2000 miles long, and as it can not adequately be covered by the immigration inspectors, the smuggling of Japanese into this country is a comparatively easy task.

Efforts now are being made by immigration authorities to establish a system of inspection by which it will be made difficult for Japanese or other aliens to get into the United States either from Mexico or from British Columbia.

CONGRESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Before leaving for the Philippines the visiting Congressmen adopted the following letter of thanks to their entertainers:

"To Hon. A. L. C. Atkinson, Acting Governor; Hon. J. Kahanianale, Delegate to Congress; James F. Morgan, Esq., Chairman Oahu Committee. "Gentlemen: The undersigned, Representatives of Congress who have visited the Hawaiian Islands upon the invitation of the Territorial Legislature, do hereby express to you and through you to the citizens who have so cordially received us, our very sincere appreciation of the courtesies and attentions most generously shown during our three weeks' visitation just closing.

"Believing that we have learned much that will be of great benefit to us in the discharge of our official duties, we trust that the final result will be the advancement of the material interest of the islands and the happiness and well being of the people.

"JOHN M. REYNOLDS, "19th Dist., Penn.; "WILLIAM W. COCKS, "1st Dist., N. Y.; "JAMES MCKINNEY, "14th Dist., Ill.; "EDWIN W. HIGGINS."

POPULATION AND SALOONS.

Editor Advertiser: I find in The Nation, of June 27, 1907, a table showing the number of liquor-sellers to the population of several large cities, as follows:

There is food for thought in these figures. If St. Petersburg can get along with one liquor-seller to two thousand nine hundred and twenty-three people, what need has Honolulu of a greater proportion to its population?

I commend the study of these figures to the License Commission.

Yours truly, N. B. EMERSON.

DENY TRACHOMA.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 7.—Immigration Commissioner North has referred the matter of the Oceanic Steamship Company, in which they have refused to deport Thomas Gill, an Australian; William Scott, a Scotchman, and Toni Mirko, an Austrian, who arrived here on the Mariposa from Tahiti on June 18, said to be suffering from trachoma, to United States District Attorney Devlin. The Oceanic Steamship Company claims that the men who have been ordered deported are not suffering from trachoma.

THE MAILS.

Mails are due from the following points as follows: San Francisco—Per Alameda, July 19. Orient—Per Mongolia, July 22. Victoria—Per Moana, July 27. Colonies—Per Manuka, July 24. Mails will depart for the following points as follows: San Francisco—Per Hiloian, today. Orient—Per Korea, today. Victoria—Per Manuka, July 24. Colonies—Per Moana, July 27.

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How many times can you recall when you have bought shoes and got them home only to find that they did not fit or look well? Women are particular about their footwear as a rule and we don't blame them. If your shoes haven't that fit and "look wear" quality, you are rightly dissatisfied. Moreover, when you pay your hard-earned cash you are entitled to perfect satisfaction. We want you to have it at our store—we insist on your getting it. Our complete stock is new and fresh, abounding in many styles and right prices. Yours for Quality, Fit and Wear.



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